



HOUSECLEANING HINTS.

A String of Don'ts For the Most Dreaded Season of the Year.

Let us begin by insisting that a general upheaval is not necessary to a thorough housecleaning, save in the hallways. The carpets or rugs must be removed from these, and sacking or burlaps put down in case the floors are fine.

Outside this no discomfort need be felt beyond that inflicted upon whoever occupies the room in the process of cleaning.

And begin with the topmost and most distant room, the one at the end of the hall. Once the "pretties" have been put away and the carpet and small articles removed, and any large pieces of furniture grouped and carefully wrapped, let the painter and paperer do their worst.

Only an insane woman would heed the paperhangers: "There's no necessity of removing the carpet." One experience brought her to her senses; we all know the muss he makes. So be ready in haste, oh ye housewives, lest ye repent at leisure.

Outside the bedrooms and the library, den, sitting room, or whatever name the best-loved room goes under, and the dining room, the discomfort will be but little felt; indeed, hardly felt at all, if only cleaning is to be done. (And everybody does not paint and paper every room every year.) Two good workers can clean thoroughly, having the things back in place, one room in a day.

Too much haste, however, makes waste, and the contents of cabinets filled with treasures must be considered a separate task, to be carefully gone over with skilled hands upon another occasion, or, at least, away from the real scene of operations.

One really can't feel much sympathy for the woman who takes in any unknown person and sets him or her to fine work, and, though it may be mean, one can't cry when she tells her tale of woe, how that "terrible creature" broke some priceless china, and how said creature listened patiently when told how much it was worth from associations, but insisted that it really could not have cost the price mentioned, "because anyone knows that the best sets of china, with 112 pieces, cost but \$55." And all the poor woman could do was to gnash her teeth or pull her hair, according to which she had the most of.

In housecleaning, as in everything else, discretion is of prime importance.

Furnishing With a Piano.

The modern idea of furnishing never places a piano with its back to the wall. Much better and more fashionable effects are obtained by placing the keyboard toward the wall, and a bench seat against the back of the piano to form a settle. Of course, the back of the piano must be properly finished to do this. Covers for pianos are no longer in vogue, but where one is very much desired a selection is made of some heavy material to match the wall. This does not hang down at the sides, but exactly fits the top. Many ornaments are out of place on a piano, a pile of music and a firm vase of fresh flowers are all that are needed.

A crowded appearance is one thing in particular to be avoided if effective results are to be obtained in home decoration. The day has gone by when it is considered desirable to have any number of trifles standing about and furniture so thickly strewn around as to impede progress through the room.

Pet Aversions of Rats.

To learn their pet aversions and by every means show them that they are unwelcome guests, giving them freely of everything that they least desire, is the only way to keep a house free from rats. Poisons teach them transitory lessons, but they "die in the house," and cause regrets thereby outside their own circles. Among the things to which they particularly object are cayenne pepper, broken glass and chloride of lime. The glass should be pounded, mixed with dry cornmeal and placed about their favorite haunts and in their holes. Cayenne pepper and chloride of lime thrown down their holes will completely discourage them. Soap and tar stuffed into their holes will also cause them to remove to their neighbors. If these remedies are renewed occasionally, even though no intruder is seen, the place will gain a desired unpopularity.

The Middle Pillow.

There is a new pillow case. It is square in shape and opens in the back, instead of at the end. Sheer linen cambric, embroidered and ruffled, is often used in its composition. It is placed in front of the other two pillows, and designed with an idea to supplant shams. Technically, it is called the "middle pillow."

Spoiled For Hard Work.

Several years ago a poor Hungarian lost both legs in an accident. He appealed to the Hungarian society. They hadn't enough funds to justify them in devoting the price of two legs, \$200, to one case, but they fixed the man up on crutches and set him, to selling lead pencils on a busy corner. They told him to make what he could, and if he raised part of the price of new legs, they'd fit him out with the rest. In two weeks he made his \$200. I know that to be a fact. He was a pitiful object and quarters rained into his box. What's more, he has been selling pencils ever since. He got his legs. We furnished them, but he was spoiled for hard work. His friends got him a place as cashier in a saloon at \$10 a week, but he held it down only a week or two. The temptation to make more money by less work was too much for him. He took off his legs and went back to the lead pencil business. He works at it in pleasant weather and makes from \$25 to \$50 a week, if times are fair. In the evening he puts on his legs and enjoys life. They are a sort of full dress costume for him, you see.—New York Sun.

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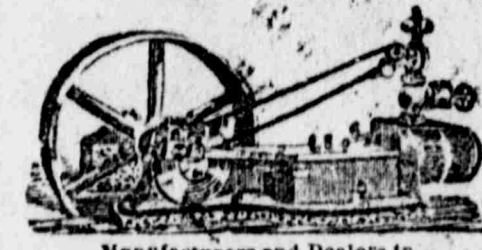
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